



February 11, 2020

The Honorable Cedric Richmond  
506 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Katko  
2457 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Richmond and Katko:

On behalf of the nation's state chief information officers (CIOs), we write to thank you and express our support for the introduction of H.R. 5823, the *State and Local Cybersecurity Improvement Act*.

As you know, state and local governments continue to face an increasingly complex cybersecurity threat environment without dedicated federal cybersecurity funding. Nearly half of states do not have a separate cybersecurity budget and more than a third have seen no growth or a reduction in those budgets. As state CIOs are tasked with additional responsibilities, including providing cybersecurity assistance to local governments, they are asked to do so with shortages in both funding and cyber talent. According to the 2018 Deloitte-NASCIO Cybersecurity Study, only half of all states have a dedicated cybersecurity budget line item while federal government agencies report cybersecurity funding in the president's budget as a portion of their overall IT spending. Additionally, according to the 2018 Cyber Study, most states spend 1-2 percent of their total IT budget on cybersecurity. Comparatively, the private sector spends an average of 28 percent of their IT budget on cybersecurity.

With the drastic increase in ransomware attacks targeting state and local governments, NASCIO appreciates the introduction of this bipartisan, commonsense legislation, which seeks to provide urgently needed cybersecurity resources to state and local governments. Additionally, H.R. 5823 would require states to specifically budget for dedicated cybersecurity funding through a mandatory matching program. Furthermore, we commend the sponsors of this legislation for the creation of the State and Local Cybersecurity Resiliency Committee, which will allow key stakeholders to provide input on the efficacy of the grant program.

Thank you again for your leadership on this issue. We look forward to our continued partnership and urge your colleagues in the House of Representatives to pass this vitally important bill. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Matt Pincus, NASCIO Director of Government Affairs at [mpincus@NASCIO.org](mailto:mpincus@NASCIO.org) or (202) 624-8477.

Sincerely,  
Doug Robinson

Executive Director  
NASCIO

